

Kono Subarashii Sekai ni Bakuen o!

Short Stories

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Taking my first step on the path to explosions

[Bakuen Manga short story]

Underneath that hood of hers, the big breasted onee-san seemed to twitch.

“Wha...What did you say?”

“I said, please teach me that spell.”

I repeated myself to that onee-san.

The onee-san made a face more troubled than when I said I wished to conquer the world.

More troubled than when I asked for a way to grow my chest.

And even more so than when I asked her to make me into the Demon King.

“Er, that spell... I said it before, didn't I? I really don't recommend that you learn this spell.”

.....

“Fine then, can you at least teach me how to catch some crayfish? I want something for dinner.”

“Don't...Don't look at me so coldly! I can teach you that spell if you really want, I just don't want to because no good will come off it...”

I looked at the onee-san panicking in front of me

“What was the spell you used just now?”

“That spell? It's called Explosion, so called the strongest spell.”

Strongest!

“It's the most powerful destructive force known to mankind. It doesn't matter if the opponent is a god or a devil, Explosion is the ultimate offensive spell that can destroy anything in the world.”

Ultimate!

“However, learning it requires an enormous amount of skill points, and even if you learn it, you won’t be able to cast it if you don’t have a massive amount of mana. Even if you can cast it, the mana required would leave you unable to move after a single shot... Hey, are you listening to me?”

“Not at all. Please teach me that spell. I want to cast Explosion.”

I grabbed onto the onee-san’s robe and started shaking her.

“How did this happen... I just wanted to thank her... but I might have messed up her life instead...”

The onee-san heaved a deep sigh.

—The Next Day

The onee-san asked for a day of rest due to having already casted Explosion, so today is the day she promised to teach it to me.

“Young lady, are you sure you don’t want to reconsider?”

We met up at the tomb, before onee-san took me to an empty plain quite some distance away from the village.

“No, the only spell I want to learn is Explosion.”

The onee-san sighed in response.

“Well, I’m only teaching you the spell. It should take you about ten years to learn it, so you’ll probably give up sometime along the way.”

“Never! I will learn it for sure! Just you watch!”

Even though she frowned after hearing my answer, the onee-san nevertheless started slowly reciting the chant of the explosion spell.

“—Right, that’s the chant to Explosion. First let’s see if you can memorize—”

Before the onee-san could finish her words, I flicked my cloak and —

“The true crimson god of destruction, Megumin, hereby commands! With my authority, manifest the power to render all creation to ash before me!”

“What kind of chant is that!? What’s that about god of destruction or authority or what not!? I definitely didn’t say any of that!”

Thus, from that day onwards, I spent my days learning magic from that onee-san whose name I still didn't know—

“—Hey, young lady, I really don't think you should add your own lines to the chant when performing magic. Your lines do sound cool, but that isn't Explosion any more.”

“I'm a Crimson Demon, so I want to add some of the Crimson Demon flair to it.”

Persuading me not to add my own lines to the chant.

“—Young lady, don't strike a pose. If you make that kind of pose, the spell will end up flying all over the place.”

“The shoemaker's son told me that a Crimson Demon who achieves victory without striking a pose is no true Crimson Demon.”

“That person is knocked in the head, don't listen to him. Please don't grow up to be like him.”

Correcting my posture while channeling magic

“— Look, this is the advanced magic spell 'Inferno'! It's a powerful spell that creates a large blaze and incinerates the entire area. What do you think? Do you want to learn this instead?”

“-Not at all. Anyway, hurry up and cast Explosion! I want to see today's Explosion!”

“Young lady, Explosion isn't a firework, you know? Even if you learn it, you can't just set it off whenever you want.”

“No, I will.”

The onee-san was frequently left on the verge of tears as she tried to persuade me who stubbornly clung to Explosion.

“—Young lady, advanced magic and teleport is a very potent combination that can deal with most enemies.”

“Explosion!”

“If you use the spell Light of Saber, you can cut apart anything if you have

enough mana...”

“Explosion!”

“Okay, instead of Explosion, how about learning Blast or Detonate? They’re both pretty strong spells in their own right...”

“Explosion!”

“I’m begging you, Listen to me!”

The onee-san finally snapped and burst into tears as I practiced my cool lines.

—Afterwards.

“I don’t want to learn anything other than Explosion! I don’t care how many years it takes. Even if I have to practice until I become an old lady, I will not give up until I learn Explosion.”

“Say, just what exactly it is about Explosion that made you so obsessed with it?”

I ignored onee-san’s question and handed her a piece of paper.

“Please use this chant for your explosion today.”

“... You changed the chant again? The invocation for a spell isn’t for increasing its power, but to control it. If you just carelessly change it... sigh...”

Onee-san covered her face with her hand after reading what I wrote.

However, in the end, she relented and used my chant for her spell-

“Explosion!”

A new crater appeared in the field that has since become pockmarked with craters after the past few days.

“What the-? How did the strength of the spell suddenly increase!?”

The onee-san became flustered after seeing the power of her spell.

“Of course a cool sounding chant would increase the power of the spell.”

“Magic isn’t that simple!... Okay, I understand that you are a genius, but, please don’t carelessly modify spells from now on, okay?”

“I refuse.”

Once again the onee-san appeared to be on the verge of tears.

She looks to be a very beautiful lady, but for some reason I think I’ve only ever seen her when she’s about to cry.

“—Then, before the actual training starts, there’s something I wanted to show you. But it’s really big and scary, and you’re a child, so I shouldn’t force you to come along. Do you want to?”

“My mom’s really scary, so it’s fine.”

Onee-san actually laughed for once.

“The thing I was talking about is several times scarier than your mother, you know?”

“Really?! When my dad went out to borrow money for his strange inventions, my mom froze his body from the head down and threw him out into the forest as he cried. It’s scarier than that!?”

“...Oh right, your mother should also be a Crimson Demon. If she’s anything like you, then she’ll probably be just as scary as that.”

Something that is as scary as mom...

“Are we going to see the Demon King or an evil god?”

“Just how scary is your mother? ...Why are your eyes glowing? Are you interested in the Demon King or Evil gods?”

The onee-san said that with a sly smile, and I nodded.

“After I defeat the Demon King, I will take on his title and become the next Demon King!”

“You can’t do that! The Demon King is the king of all demonkind! It’s not something you can become just by defeating the current king!”

After saying that, the onee-san suddenly let out a sly expression.

“...Although, Demon King aside, if we are talking about evil gods, you might have already met one without realizing it.”

She said, a strange smile playing on her lips.

“That’s impossible. If an evil god got anywhere near the village, the villagers would’ve captured it and sealed it away to turn into another tourist attraction.”

“I think the Crimson Demons should stop treating divine beings as toys!”

–Deep inside the forest on the outskirts of the village.

This place is usually forbidden to me as it contains numerous strong monsters.

After onee-san took me here...

“Young lady, I think we should go back! It was my fault, please listen to me!”

“The liver and stomach of a one-strike bear are worth a lot of money! I don’t know why they’re so afraid of us, but this is a wonderful opportunity! If we catch one, we can eat it for dinner!”

We ended up chasing a pack of cowardly one strike bears who were running away from us in fear for some reason.

I’ve been eating nothing but crayfish for some time, so the prospect of having a different sort of meat for dinner is really appealing.

“Wait, I only brought you here because I wanted to teach you that advanced magic is much better for dealing with dangerous monsters! I didn’t come here to hunt one strike bears!”

“No problem. I don’t feel like I’ll lose to anyone right now. I’m sure my abilities as the god of destruction will appear in the heat of battle!”

“How are the Crimson Demons so... are they like this from the moment they are born...”

Onee-san started chanting her magic after heaving a deep sigh.

“Freeze Gust!”

A white powder burst from onee-san’s hands and enveloped all the one strike bears, rendering them motionless.

“Oh, I think that this can be made into a new attraction if we bring it back to village.”

“No way am I letting you do that! This is just to show you that there are other, better, stronger spells out there!”

Looking at the frozen pack of one-strike bears who could do nothing except whine pitifully, onee-san let out a rare smile.

“What I just used was the intermediate magic Freeze Gust. See? With enough mana, even intermediate magic can be a powerful weapon. This requires much less mana than Explosion. If you use advanced magic and intermediate magic strategically, I’m sure you’ll be able to become one of the best mages... young lady, what are you doing!?”

She hurriedly moved in front of me as I approached the pack with a large stick.

“It’s a rare chance to have a herd of high level monsters lying helpless, so I’m going to finish them off and earn some experience points. The people in the village often use this method to power level. They freeze them up like this and finish them off, and some even raise monsters specifically for this.”

“What in the world! D-do the Crimson Demons have any decency at all?!”

—These happy days continued for quite a while.

But in time, it looked like onee-san finally started to get restless.

“Young lady, can I ask you something?”

“What is it? I’m not telling you where the crayfish nest is, so don’t ask.”

“Don’t worry, I don’t want to know that. ... Say, Crimson Demons have their adventurer cards made when they’re born right? Then, can onee-san take a look at your card?”

Hearing this, I tried to hide the card that was originally in my robe pocket.

Onee-san once again sighed after seeing this.

“I knew it. Explosion already appeared in your learnable skills hasn’t it?”

“No, I am a slow learner, so I need a lot more time to learn something like that.”

Onee-san raised her hand towards me.

“Paralyze.”

After she chanted some strange spell, I found that I couldn’t move at all.

“What, you want to have your way with me while I can’t move? I will call for help when I get back to the village! When I get back I report to my mom and dad that an onee-san with big breasts and yellow eyes kidnapped me. S-stop! Stop!”

“I just wanted to see your adventurer card! Please don’t tell people about me!”

As much as I wanted to resist, I couldn’t move a muscle, and my card was easily taken from me.

Onee-san removed her spell once she took my card, and started reading it in a low voice.

“Explosion is under learnable skills alright... Huh? The other skills that I showed you are here as well!? How can you call yourself a slow learner!? You learnt all these after just seeing them just once!”

Seeing me cross my arms and look away, the onee-san made a troubled expression.

“Young lady, I still have things I need to do and places I need to visit. Now that I have taught you Explosion, it’s about time that we part ways.”

“I don’t wanna! If onee-san leaves, I won’t be able to see Explosions anymore!”

Hearing that, she bent down to my eye level.

“Didn’t you say you will learn Explosion for sure? You’ll see it again once you learn it.”

The onee-san gave me a gentle smile.

“Then it’s time to for us to part. It’d be dangerous to go further from the village, so there’s no need to see me off... I don’t really approve of this, but in the end, it’s your life. I won’t stop you, it’s up to you to make your own decisions from now.”

The onee-san said that as she gazed at the road leading out of the village.

We didn't spend that much time together, but I enjoyed every day that I spent with onee-san.

I got to eat great food, hunt powerful monsters, and see many different types of spells.

So...

"Okay, it's time to say goodbye. If the day ever comes that you learn explosion magic, I would really want to see it for myself."

"Then don't forget about me before that day comes."

"I-I don't think I could forget about you even if I wanted to. Your unusual name, all the things you did, and your aptitude for magic... Just seeing you makes my heart thump. You should try and lead a peaceful life from now on."

The person who casted that spell for me many times, the spell that I fell in love with...

"My goal is to defeat the Demon King, so I can't promise you that I'll lead a peaceful life, but... I can promise you that I'll definitely show you my Explosion, so..."

As if she knew what I was about to say, onee-san gave me a wry smile.

"Could I please see onee-san's Explosion one last time?"

I'll definitely show you my Explosion one day—

The highly respected Crimson Demons

[Bakuen 3: Toranora exclusive short story]

This happened back when I was exploring Axel with Yunyun.

“Hey, aren’t those two Crimson Demons?”

“W-Wait, are you serious? Crimson Demons, you mean that clan of super powerful mages that even the Demon King’s Army is afraid of, right?”

We could hear such whispers coming from behind us as we walked past a certain street.

I maintained a calm appearance, and glanced at Yunyun beside me.

She seemed to be acting as usual, but I could see the edges of her mouth constantly twitching upwards.

I’m probably in the same state right now.

Behind us, the two men continued their whispered conversation.

“Speaking of Crimson Demons, every single one of them is an extremely skilled mage, and have mana far beyond those of regular mages.”

“Hey, did you know? It seems like the Crimson Demons have built a watchtower next to their village from which they can keep watch on the Demon King’s castle. That’s why the Demon King’s army need to keep a significant force in the castle at all times. If they commit those forces to an attack and leave the castle lightly guarded, the Crimson Demons will immediately know and launch an attack. It’s all thanks to them that things are so peaceful around here.”

My smile is probably showing by now. I can tell from looking at Yunyun’s expression.

We pretended to be very interested in the town of Axel, curiously looking around and purposefully slowing down our pace.

It’s definitely not because we wanted to hear what the two guys behind us were saying.

... Yes, we are just extremely interested in the goods on display at a nearby store.

The storekeeper who was sitting cross-legged on the ground looked up at us and said,

“Welcome, but if you are just here to window shop, I must ask that you leave quickly. These are all items that most adventurers can’t make use of, after all... Wait, you two are Crimson Demons!”

He exclaimed in surprise upon seeing our eyes.

Seemingly regretting his words, the store owner hurriedly said,

“How could I not recognise that the two of you are Crimson Demons, that clan that’s an important exporter of magic items... Please, browse my wares! These are all items that regular adventurers can’t utilise, but the two of you can definitely make use of them! Please, go ahead and browse to your heart’s content! In particular, this is the jewel of my store!”

The owner picked up many items for us to peruse.

“Ah, no, we were just a little curious, we don’t really intend to buy anything...”

Yunyun and I hurriedly moved to decline, but...

“As expected of Crimson Demons. Even that brusque shopkeeper is enamoured with them.”

“Yeah, that old man wouldn’t sell his items to someone he doesn’t judge worthy no matter how much money they offer, but he has even taken out his prized item for those two..”

The two guys behind us sounded quite impressed.

Seems like the owner of this store is quite famous.

Hearing their words, Yunyun desperately tried to suppress her smile as she picked up an item off the shelf.

“...Yeah, this doesn’t look too bad indeed...”

Saying that, she handed over the item to me.

“Hmm, yeah, this is pretty well-made. I can’t feel any magic from it, but the craftsmanship is quite marvelous...”

To be honest, I have no idea what exactly is the item Yunyun handed over to me, nor could I detect any kind of magic from it, but it must be a good product.

Seeing Yunyun pick that item up, the owner exclaimed in shock.

“I-I didn’t expect you to take a liking to that...! You two have a good eye... That’s only meant to be used to attract customers. It’s not for sale, but... I like the looks of you, so, very well, I’ll sell it.”

“Ooh, how amazing!”

Hearing the owner’s words, the two men behind us raised a shocked voice.

“It seems like a good deal, Yunyun.”

“Yeah Megumin, I didn’t expect to find something like this in the town of beginners.”

We said that in a voice loud enough to be heard by everyone present, before buying the item and leaving the scene under the envious gaze of the onlookers.

After rounding the corner, both of us squatted down at the same time.

“Megumin, just what is this? Is 100,000 eris really a good price for this thing?”

“How would I know? I should be asking that of you! This is a piggy bank no matter how you look at it, but it must have some kind of hidden power...”

Just as we were whispering to each other as to why exactly we bought such a thing...

“Ahh, thanks for your hard work, you two. Here’s your cut.”

“Sorry for always taking your money like this, Old man.”

“Still, you’re pretty skilled. I didn’t expect Crimson Demons to fall for your tricks so easily.”

We heard such a conversation coming from around the corner.

“Crimson Demons have high mana and intelligence.”

That’s the voice of the storekeeper from before.

“But, did you know? Crimson Demons are really easy to trick. They are especially vulnerable to phrases like ‘Jewel of my store’ or ‘legendary something or the other’.”

Hearing the three of them erupt into laughter, Yunyun and I emerged from the corner.

“But, did you know? Crimson Demons are very short tempered.”

“But, did you know? Crimson Demons will always rise to meet the expectations of anyone looking for a fight.”

The three men bolted like rabbits, and Yunyun and I furiously chased after them.

Komekko's Sugar Daddy

[Bakuen 1 Short story]

Just what is happening?

“Onii-chan, I want to eat frost lizard steak next!”

“Leave it to me! Onii-chan is really strong! It doesn't matter if you want a frost lizard or a salamander, it'll be a cinch to me!”

On the way back from school, I came across Bukkoroli trying to bribe Komekko with food. This is probably something I should be reporting to the adults of the village...

Though, this NEET is a rare lifeline to Komekko who's still growing up, so I could turn a blind eye to this...

“I'm going to become Onii-chan's wife when I grow up!”

“You damned NEET, how dare you seduce my sister!”

“Wai-st-stop, Megumin! Why are you hitting me all of a sudden?!”

— After hearing his explanation, it seems like Bukkoroli found Komekko wandering around the village and is keeping an eye on her.

Komekko would probably have ended up going into the nearby forest in search of food if left alone.

“Listen up, Komekko, the forests around the village are full of strong monsters, so you must never go out of the village by yourself.”

Hearing that, Komekko responded.

“Even if I'm with the powerful Bukkoroli?”

“Definitely not. This NEET might be strong in combat, but if you go alone with him, it'd be dangerous in a different manner.”

“What are you trying to say? I don't have that kind of tastes!”

Komekko looked at the two of us as we argued incessantly.

“Who is stronger, Onee-san or Bukkoroli?”

“.....”

After a short silence, the two of us both pointed to ourselves.

“Obviously it’s me, the number one genius in the village...”

“Obviously it’s me, who spends a lot of time hunting monsters every day...”

The two of us started squaring off in front of Komekko again.

“... You didn’t forget how you cried after I pushed you into the pond when we were little, did you?”

“... How long ago was that? I can do this now, you know!? Light of Reflection!”

“Y-you bastard, how could you use magic during a quarrel with a girl who’s younger than you!?”

I angrily shouted after Bukkoroli who concealed himself with magic, and I heard his gloating voice ring out from somewhere in response.

“Admit your defeat, Megumin! Don’t think I’m the same guy as when I was younger! Even if I face the Demon King’s Army...”

“– Oh, isn’t that Megumin and Komekko?”

The one who interrupted Bukkoroli mid sentence is the owner of the number one shoe shop in the village. In other words, Bukkoroli’s father.

“I asked him to mind the store, and he ended up disappearing off somewhere. Have you two seen that wastrel around?”

Komekko and I pointed at an empty spot in the air.

“He should be around there.”

As we said that, we heard frantic noises of someone quickly running away.

And Bukkoroli’s father cast a spell in that direction—

Dear Onee-chan

[Bakuen 3 Gamers short story]

I finally found someone I knew after wandering around the village for quite some time.

That girl who's sitting on the bench next to the store selling roasted sweet potatoes and writing about something is Onee-chan's friend. Her name is...

"Amure! I've found Amure!"

"It's Arue. My name isn't Amure, it's Arue. What's the matter, Komekko? You seem quite worked up. Do you need me for something?"

Seeing me, Amure squatted down and brought her face down to my level.

"I haven't eaten anything for three days."

"Weren't you eating heartily after conning Bukkoroli yesterday...? Oh fine, how about I treat you to a roasted sweet potato?"

I nodded enthusiastically, and Amure grinned in response and ordered a roasted sweet potato for me.

As I bit into my snack, I remembered what I originally came here for.

"Amure, this! Can you read it for me!?"

"M-my name is Arue... A letter? Oh, it's a letter from Megumin. Let me see..."

Amure opened the letter with an expectant expression, and slowly read the contents out loud.

"To my dear sister, Komekko. By the time you've found someone to read this letter to you, I would've already found a great party in Axel and spread my name around. On the journey, I taught a very effective recruiting method to the Axis Cult and saved them by doing so, and I also defeated a female Devil who attacked our caravan with my powerful spell, and did a lot of other amazing things. Behave yourself at home and look forward to letters of my wonderful exploits. Have you been eating well? Are you brushing your teeth every day? Did you remember to lock the doors and windows before going to bed..."

“I’m bored now.”

“That’s way too quick! Oh well, all that’s left is just her fussing endlessly over you anyways. I guess Megumin has a sisterly side too.”

Amure let out a small chuckle as she continued scanning the letter.

“Oh, there’s a mailing address written at the bottom. Seems like she’s rented out a postbox so you can send her a letter whenever you miss her, Komekko. So, what do you think? I can help you write a letter if you want.”

“I don’t miss Onee-chan, and writing a letter sounds like a chore, so I don’t think I will.”

“Is-is that so? I think it’s better to send a reply in this situation. It’ll make Megumin happy, and, to be honest, this is probably her way of saying that she misses you a lot.”

“... Okay, let’s write a letter.”

Even after leaving the village, Onee-chan is still a spoilt little girl who craves the attention of others.

But if it will make Onee-chan happy, then I should let Amure help me write a reply.

“That’s good. So, what do you want to write? How about writing that you’re doing well, and you can look after the house even by yourself? This will put her at ease.”

Hearing Amure’s suggestion, I nodded my head and said,

“Then write... Now that Onee-chan isn’t here, all of your food is now mine. The other adults are very worried about me now that Onee-chan isn’t around, so they always give me a lot of food. I’m very happy that Onee-chan isn’t around. There’s no need to rush to return home, Onee-chan.”

“Don’t write that, it’ll make Megumin cry! I did tell you to put her at ease, but maybe we should change the wording a little?”

Amure balled up the letter that she was writing, and mumbled something that sounded like honest children are really scary.

“Then, how about... There are a lot of different people who treat me to food every day. Bukkoroli has been crying about how he’s been getting less to eat after I’ve been heading over every day. Then his father shouted at him to go find a job if he doesn’t like it and started using magic inside the house. I ignored that and continued eating.”

“You really run into a lot of incredible situations. I should say this, but you shouldn’t just continue to eat in that situation. You should hurry up and run. Seriously, I feel like you’ll become a really incredible person in the future.”

“Oh, and... I became friends with a black and huge and strong goblin recently. He said that he’ll become my familiar when I’ve become a great mage.”

“Ko-Komekko, what did you just say? What exactly do you mean by goblin? Please tell onee-san more details!”

Amure threw away her pen and roughly shook me by the shoulders.

“You didn’t go outside the village, did you? Onee-san won’t get angry, so tell me the truth.”

“I don’t go outside often.”

“That means you go outside occasionally, right!? Listen, there are a lot of really strong monsters outside the village. You’ll make Megumin worry, so don’t go outside the village again!”

Seeing Amure’s serious expression, I firmly nodded.

“Sigh... I can’t put this into the letter either... Just what exactly is that huge goblin anyway? Anyway, let’s write some words of encouragement at the end. That’ll make Megumin happy... But, yeah, you’ll definitely become an incredible person in the future, Komekko. Definitely.”

Amure sighed and patted my head.

“Then, write... Please kill the Demon King and become the strongest mage.”

“Yes, yes, bringing up the Demon King right now is a stroke of genius. It’ll definitely motivate Megumin. As expected of the girl who will become an incredible person in the magical community. I didn’t misjudge you, Komekko.”

“Be sure to bring back the body of the Demon King. I always wanted to know

what a Demon King tasted like. Sincerely, Komekko.”

“This girl is already incredible!”

Explosion is Art

[Bakuen 1 Short story]

—Klein Gilbert

This man is an extremely talented artist. It's said that there's not a single person in the artistic community who has not heard of his name.

He's originally the third son of a impoverished noble family, but he has single handedly restored the glory and finances of his house with his artistic genius. Right now he can be considered to be an influential aristocrat in this country, as well as being a famous celebrity.

"I'll gladly accept your request!"

"Oh, thank you very much, Megumin-san!"

And that man has been talking animatedly with Megumin for the past few minutes.

— Megumin was summoned by the guild.

I originally thought she ended up causing some kind of trouble again and went with her to apologize, but it turned out that this famous noble Gilbert had a special request for her.

And that request is...

"Explosion is art! I didn't think the day would come when I'd be able to see Explosion, a spell far superior to Blast or Detonation, with my own eyes!"

"You're right! You're absolutely right, sensei! Explosion is art! Blast? Detonation? No, only Explosion can be said to be true art! Very well, I'll let Klein-sensei witness the splendour of my greatest magic!"

... Well, you get the idea.

I've heard that artists are a quirky bunch, but I didn't expect him to be so compatible with the maniac in my party.

This explosion-obsessed artist traveled all the way to Axel from the capital

after hearing that Megumin could use Explosion.

The two of them have been excitedly chatting about stuff I couldn't comprehend ever since they met.

I want to go home.

I really want to go home, but for some reason I get the feeling that it'd be very dangerous to leave the two of them unsupervised.

"Kazuma, what are you waiting for? Let's go! I'm feeling really great today. I'll definitely be able to unleash the best Explosion ever like this!"

"How wonderful! I'm looking forward to your performance, Megumin-san!"

Megumin dragged on my shirt and brought me outside the guild.

...I'm getting a really bad feeling about this.

"— There really is a clear difference between the work of Klein-sensei and the other painters. In particular, the 'Exploding man amongst the glittering sunset' is truly marvelous."

What do you mean by exploding man?

I don't really want to see such a sight, though I'm a little curious as to what kind of painting would have such a title.



Hearing Megumin excitedly sing his praises as they walked down the streets, Gilbert cordially said,

“There’s no need to address me as Klein-sensei. Just Gilbert will do, Megumin-san.”

Come to think of it, he didn’t ask any questions or even waver at all upon hearing Megumin’s name during her introduction.

In fact, he even said it’s a wonderful name bursting with personality and originality.

Seems like artists really do see the world differently from regular people.

“Anyway, Gilbert-san, you said you wanted to see Megumin’s Explosion, right? Where are we headed?”

“Address me as Klein-sensei, Kazuma-san. Ah, here we are. That’s it. I would like you to use your explosion magic on that.”

... What’s with this difference in treatment between me and Megumin? I really want to slap him in the face.

I looked over to where Gilbert was pointing...

“... Isn’t that the Eris Church building?”

Hearing my question, Gilbert nodded contentedly.

“Indeed, it’s the church of the detestable Eris Church. I’m a devoted follower of the Axis Cult, you see. The destruction of a church of Eris through Explosion shall definitely create a wonderful sight full of artistic merit...”

“Very well, stand back.”

“Don’t do that! Stop chanting in the middle of the town! Hey, don’t think you can do anything just because you are a famous noble! Blowing up a church is no laughing matter!”

After getting restrained by me, Megumin and Gilbert shot me disappointed looks.

“Okay, fine, how about changing the target to that run down magic item shop that looks like it’d run out of business any day now?”

“I know the person who runs that shop, but alright, let’s go with that.”

“I told you not to start chanting in the middle of town! That shop looks to be

run down, but it's still in business! It just doesn't get that many customers! The store owner is still working hard every day!"

This scene played out over and over again as they walked down the streets, the two of them suggesting using everything they see as a target and me having to repeatedly stop them.

Dammit, this is really grating on my nerves. I should just forget about those two and go home.

... No, if I do that, I'll definitely end up having to clean up after them.

Noble or no, I should just abandon him in the outskirts and run.

Just when I thought of such a solution-

"I told you right from the start, there's no way we'll be able to complete it in such a short time!"

I heard a familiar voice.

This is the voice of the foreman whom Aqua and I worked under back when we first came to this world.

The foreman seems to be involved in a dispute with an opulently dressed man.

"I don't care, finish dismantling it by today! I won't pay unless it's done by the end of the day! Or what, do you think you'll be able to get another job in this down after going against a noble? If you understand, then hurry up and get to work!"

The opulently dressed man gave such an unreasonable ultimatum to the foreman.

"First Klein-san and now that man... Are all nobles like this?"

I muttered with a sigh, and Gilbert disdainfully refuted,

"Please, call me Klein-sensei. And that man is an embarrassment to the nobility! Don't lump him together with me! He's probably an upstart who bought his title with money. I've never seen his face before."

I suspiciously looked him, trying to decide if he's trying to be humble or

bragging about his own superiority.

Just then, Gilbert exclaimed.

“Inspiration has struck me, Megumin-san! I’ve decided on the best situation to bring out the splendour of Explosion!”

“Oh, I’m all ears, sensei! Let me show you the ultimate Explosion!”

Hearing Megumin’s words, Gilbert pointed at the noble and said,

“... That upstart seems to want his mansion torn down by today. Blowing up his extravagant mansion right in front of that upstart... What do you think? Isn’t it overflowing with artistic merit?”

“Indeed! I too feel that it’d be worth a lot of points!”

My attention having been drawn away by the argument of the foreman, I was too late in stopping Megumin from chanting.

“Hey, wait-”

“Alright, Megumin-san, please show me the pinnacle of art! Don’t worry, I’ll take responsibility for this. I’ll handle the damage to the surroundings, so go ahead and unleash your full power!”

“Very well, sensei! Explosion~!”

—An explosive flower bloomed above the town—

Not only was the mansion blown to pieces, but the windows of the surrounding buildings were also shattered by the shockwave. Having been bowled over by that same shockwave, I clambered to my feet and observed my surroundings.

“Look at this! Look at this sight, Megumin-san! Look at the face of that upstart with his eyes rolled into his head! What a blast! This truly is art! I’ll have a decade of inspiration from this! Yes, this is what true art is!”

I spotted the foreman and the upstart noble lying unconscious in the distance.

“Yes, this is art! This is what true art is, Sensei! Hahahahaha!”

— I’ve decided.

Clenching my fists, I walked towards the two who were laughing heartily while lying motionless on the ground-